MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 14 April 3, 2025

Don't buy cars from Nazis

By Alex Colwell

"Don't buy cars from Nazis" perfectly encapsulated the sentiment of the passionate working-class folks who this writer joined at the Tesla dealership on March 29 in Plano, Texas, near Dallas. Listed on the Action Network as part of countrywide actions against the tech company and its oligarchic CEO, Elon Musk, this slogan was enough to mobilize and focus the natural outrage produced by the unprecedented, incompetent and corrupt Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), headed by Musk.

The action involved about 40 people holding signs. When this writer asked a protester named Tori if she knew who was organizing the event, she admitted that she had gotten there the same way I had, by seeing the listing on the network's website and simply choosing to come on her own. Many attendees shared the same story: word of mouth and a hatred of this fascist had driven them to action.

WW PHOTO: ALEX COLWELL

Plano, Texas, March 29, 2025.

Tesla 'smells like fascism' at Boston Takedown

By Steve Gillis

WW PHOTO: STEVE GILLIS

Hundreds of people — including the marching band BABAM (the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians) — blockaded the police-guarded front door of the Tesla dealership at Prudential Center on Boylston Street in Boston on March 29. The action was part of the national Tesla Takedown call on social media. "Sell your Tesla," they chanted with big brass sing-song accompaniment whenever the crowd spotted a Tesla slinking by in downtown shopping district traffic.

Speakers connected the mass layoffs and attacks on federal workers' unions with the theme of fighting fascism that comprised the majority of homemade signs. The crowd also aimed their outrage at billionaire Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency's attacks on government agencies like the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which speakers termed an "attack on democracy."

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Trans Day of Visibility. Media, Pa., March 30, 2025. **See page 5.**

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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MAGA and Senate bill would ban federal workers' unions

By Benny Schaft

The U.S. billionaire-led ruling class has officially declared war — not just on unions but on the working class. In addition to the Trump/Musk administration's mass firings of federal workers, late on March 27 Trump signed an executive order ending collective bargaining agreements with unions representing federal workers whose jobs involve national security.

The order includes employees in the Departments of State, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Energy, Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Treasury, Justice and Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission and the part of Homeland Security responsible for border security. It also impacts the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), whose employees are essentially cops and do not deserve a union.

The National Association of Letter Carriers came out ready to "fight like hell" on March 23, 2025, in rallies from coast to coast.

It specifically targets the American Federation of Government Employees, which Trump complains in a "fact sheet" has filed many grievances to "block Trump policies." AFGE, which represents more than 800,000 federal employees, condemned the move in a March 27 statement noting that it affects the collective bargaining rights of more than 1 million federal employees.

AFGE National President Everett Kelley said: "President Trump's latest executive order is a disgraceful and retaliatory attack on the rights of hundreds of thousands of patriotic American civil servants — nearly one-third of whom are veterans — simply because they are members of a union that stands up to his harmful policies." (CNN, March 28)

Jimmy Williams, Jr., general president of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, responding to Trump's attacks, said: "This is what we mean when we say the Trump administration is coming for unions, and they are not afraid to hide it. When union busting begins at the White House, it gives power to other bosses to do the same, and we can't let that happen. Part of what made President Reagan's 1981 attack on striking Air Traffic Controllers so devastating to our movement was our [lack of] response. We cannot make the same mistake.

"If President Trump wants to continue his war on the working class with the support of his oligarch friends, then workers must fight back." (iupat.org, March 28)

Bill aims at crushing a movement

In addition to Trump's ban, which may not stand up in court, Congress is now attempting to pass a bill that would ban and limit federal government workers — including postal workers — from organizing unions. This bill is nothing more than a blatant attempt to privatize federal jobs, all in the name of maximizing profits.

Introduced in mid-March by U.S. Senators Mike Lee (R-UT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Senate Bill S.1006 has been named the "Federal Workforce Freedom Act" by its MAGA sponsors. It would ban all federal workers from organizing and joining unions as well as tear up all existing labor agreements, arbitration rulings and union grievances. (governing.com, March 17)

This is just the latest attack in the long war against organized labor, waged since the Gilded Age of the 1880s and 1890s throughout the 20th century and up to today. The capitalist class has always worked tirelessly to prevent workers from tasting the fruits of their own labor — things as basic as democracy and human rights in the workplace — because to them, those rights cut into profits.

The bosses' justification? They claim corruption and so-called "illegal activities" within unions have forced their hand. But let's be real — this is not about corruption. This is about power. The government, particularly under administrations like Trump's, has ramped up its anti-union crusade to strip away the already scarce rights that workers have in this country. This is about control.

And this isn't the first time. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 was designed to restrict the power of organized labor out of fear that workers would demand more democracy in the workplace and control their own health and welfare benefits. The history of labor in the U.S. has always been a battle between workers demanding basic rights and a government hellbent on suppressing them.

So why does this matter in 2025? Because this bill isn't just about breaking unions — it's about crushing a movement. Much of organized labor has been one of the few forces in this country willing to call out the genocide of the Palestinian people and the countless others suffering under U.S.-backed imperialism. It is no coincidence that as labor gains victories against the capitalist class, like at Starbucks and Amazon, the billionaires' government moves to silence it.

The success of workers proves a simple truth: Capitalism is inefficient, corrupt and unsustainable. People's democracy — workers' democracy, socialism — has grown in popularity not just worldwide, but here in the United States.

This bill is an attempt to curb not only the labor movement but the socialist movement as well. And that is exactly why every worker, regardless of job, must rise up. Organize. Speak out. Support all workers. The media will tell you otherwise, but the truth is: you hold the power — not those in office, not the corporations, not the elite.

History has shown that when workers rise up, the country stops. And when the country stops, the capitalists lose everything.

The bosses know this. That's why they're afraid. That's why they're scrambling to break up our unions before we realize what we've known all along —

They need us.

We don't need them. □

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WORKERS WORLD editorial

Build protests to defend students!

RELEASE MAHMOUD KHALIL
HANDS OFF OUR STUDENTS
FREEDOM & JUSTICE FOR
MAHMOUD KHALIL
DEFEND THE FIRST AMENDMENT
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS
CEASEFIRE NOW
STOP WAR & GENOCIDE IN GAZA
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS
NJ FIGHTS BACK
Jewish Voice for Peace
Not in the State of "Israel" and its atrocities

Hundreds of protesters carried banners and signs outside the federal court hearing for Mahmoud Khalil in Newark, N.J., on March 28, 2025. PHOTO: DONNA R.

Workers World calls on all students who have citizen rights in the United States and who identify with the right to protest to take actions to defend any students who have been targeted by the Trump administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops. WW calls on the anti-imperialist movement to join and support any of these efforts.

Look at the following three examples already underway to defend students — in the courts and in the streets — who courageously demonstrated their opposition to the U.S.-Israeli-inflicted genocide in Gaza.

Rümeysa Öztürk is a doctoral student and Fullbright scholar of Turkish citizenship at Tufts University in suburban Boston. She was seized by masked, plainclothes ICE agents who assaulted and zip-tied her while she was walking in her Somerville, Massachusetts, neighborhood March 25. The Gestapo-like assault was caught on video and seen by millions of people worldwide.

Outraged by the assault, thousands of people converged on Tufts University on March 26 to demand that ICE immediately release Öztürk from her rendition to an ICE concentration camp in Louisiana. Two of Boston's largest unions — Service Employees (SEIU), of which Öztürk is a member, and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) — have demanded Öztürk's immediate release and an end to the ICE raids. A federal judge ruled on March 28 that Öztürk cannot be deported without a court order.

Yunseo Chung, a Columbia student and lawful U.S. resident who moved to the United States from South Korea as a child, was arrested at a sit-in March 5 at nearby Barnard College protesting the expulsion of students who participated in pro-Palestinian activism.

Threatened with deportation by Homeland Security, on March 24 Chung sued Trump and other administration members. Her lawsuit argues that the government is "attempting to use immigration enforcement as a bludgeon to suppress speech that they dislike." (Guardian, March 25) A U.S. district judge granted a temporary restraining order that prohibits moving Chung, who had not been seized yet, outside the jurisdiction of the Southern District of New York.

Mahmoud Khalil, who ICE seized at his Columbia University housing, drew broad publicity and sparked demonstrations of thousands of people in the New York area and all over the country. Like Öztürk, Khalil was moved to an ICE detention center in Louisiana, where the MAGA regime expects a blank check for its police-state tactics.

Hundreds of mostly Jewish demonstrators held a sit-in at Trump Tower in New York March 13 to protest Khalil's and others' seizures. Police arrested some 100 participants. A protest March 28 at the Newark, New Jersey, site of Khalil's court hearing backed up the demands by his attorneys that the hearings stay in New Jersey.

Other students have been seized, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said the administration is arbitrarily canceling green cards (permission to work in the U.S.) and student visas for others, including Chinese students.

The Gestapo-like arrests aim to frighten and silence opposition. They have also awakened and spread resistance. The opposition includes those who fight against the U.S.-Israeli genocidal war in Gaza and others who support the right to dissent.

WW urges its readers and co-thinkers to promote all such signs of resistance to the White House's police-state tactics.

Rubio's public threat that the imperialist state will arbitrarily remove rights of foreign students, visitors and others, while a serious threat to the individuals targeted, exposes weaknesses at the heart of U.S. imperialism.

For decades the U.S. ruling class opened its universities' doors to students worldwide with utter confidence this step would profit their system. They had no fear of consequences. On the contrary, many students would remain in the U.S. and provide loyal researchers, doctors and engineers to the U.S. capitalist economy.

That the MAGA crew is closing these doors is an admission that U.S. imperialism is losing its ability to attract this talent and win students' loyalty.

Defend the students! ☐

Thousands gathered in Powderhouse Square near Tufts University to demand "Free Rümeysa Öztürk!," Somerville, Mass., March 26, 2025. PHOTO: CATHY MCLAUGHLIN

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Trans Day of Visibility 2025

By Joe Piette, Arjae Red and Jey Clayton

Trans Day of Visibility, started in 2010 by Transgender Michigan leader Rachel Crandall Crocker, is commemorated every year around the world on or around March 31.

This year's actions took place in the context of an onslaught of bigoted attacks. President Donald Trump began his systematic attempt to erase the transgender community on the day he took office. Right now there are over 450 anti-LGBTQIA2S+ bills in state legislatures.

Here are a few reports.

Hundreds marched and rallied in "solidarity, resilience, resistance and allyship for our Trans and Non-binary community" in **Media, Pennsylvania**, on March 30. After speakers explained why marches for trans lives are so necessary at a time of government attacks, over 200 people marched through the suburban Philadelphia town, drawing cheers and applause from pedestrians on the sidewalks. A popular chant was, "We don't need your permission, Who we are is our decision."

After getting back to the starting point in front of the Delaware County Courthouse, community members spoke first, followed by political office holders and then an open mic. The family-friendly rally ended with the raising of the Transgender Pride Flag on the official courthouse flagpole for the first time ever.

Media, Pennsylvania, March 30, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Protesters gathered on March 30 in Bidwell Park on Elmwood Avenue in **Buffalo, New York**, to protest the Trump regime's war on trans people, as well as his continued support for the genocide of Palestinians which is often justified by pinkwashing.

The protest was organized by a coalition made up of the Communist Student League, Workers World Party, Young Democratic Socialists of America-University at Buffalo, State University of New York Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions and American Party of Labor.

'A tool of empire'

A crowd of activists and many passersby showed support for trans rights on March 30 in **Portland, Oregon**, spurred by the return of the misogynist-in-chief Trump and his onslaught against his political enemies. Put on by Transexual Menaces of Portland, the rally included speakers and chants to show the city that trans people will not stay silent and will continue to resist the violence and attempts at erasure of their lives.

One speaker, an Ojibwe Two Spirit Person, directly tied their identity to the fight against imperialism and settler colonialism, rightly calling out the United States' "systemic erasure of cultures" and "transphobia … a tool of empire." An educator who fled Utah due to its anti-trans attacks inspired the crowd by reminding trans people that "your survival is existence."

The organizers then allowed community members to take the mic and speak their minds. A person who was using a wheelchair and was one of several people who spoke about the connections between the attacks on disability rights and trans rights by fascist forces concluded their speech with their take on a chant: "We sit down and fight back!" ☐

Buffalo, New York, March 30, 2025.

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Multimillonarios: ¡Las manos fuera del Seguro Social!

Por Betsey Piette

La campaña de Trump para 2024 prometió no recortar el Seguro Social y propuso no gravar los beneficios. Pero ahora que ha sido elegido, las prácticas de Trump contradicen sus promesas de campaña. La privatización de las prestaciones de jubilación e invalidez, que ha sido durante mucho tiempo un objetivo de los inversores capitalistas de fondos de cobertura que respaldan a Trump y que ahora pueden acceder a los fondos de Seguro Social, es una amenaza real para los trabajadores jubilados y discapacitados.

Trump y el multimillonario Elon Musk se han dedicado a distorsionar sin fundamento la Administración de Seguro Social, calificándola de «mal administrada» y «plagada de fraudes.» En una entrevista con Joe Rogan en febrero, Musk llamó al Seguro Social «el mayor esquema Ponzi de todos los tiempos». Hablando en Fox Business sobre el gasto en prestaciones sociales que consideraba un despilfarro, Musk dijo que el Seguro Social era «el grande a eliminar». (NBC News, 23 de marzo)

Sin embargo, Nancy Altman, de la organización sin ánimo de lucro Seguro Social Works, dijo: «No sólo el fraude real es tan raro que es totalmente insignificante (0,00002 %), sino que la SSA es también excepcional en el sentido de que menos de un céntimo de cada dólar gastado se destina a la administración.» (Truthout, 17 de marzo)

Eso no ha impedido que Trump y el Departamento de Eficiencia Gubernamental (DOGE) de Musk le hayan dado el hachazo a este programa de casi 90 años.

Invasión del DOGE

En febrero, el personal del DOGE exigió el acceso a los registros de la SSA de 70 millones de personas que contenían datos protegidos, incluidos números del Seguro Social, información financiera y personal, estado de inmigración y más. Cuando la comisionada en funciones Michelle King dimitió por preocupaciones de privacidad sobre el acceso del DOGE, Trump puso a Leland Dudek al mando; Dudek había cooperado abiertamente con el DOGE.

El nombramiento de Frank Bisignano, la elección de Trump para convertirse en comisionado de la SSA, aún está pendiente de la aprobación del Senado. Bisignano, conocido como un «apañador» de Wall Street, aboga abiertamente por recortar gastos reduciendo la plantilla, incluso hasta el punto de sustituir a los trabajadores por chatbots de IA.

Mientras tanto, Dudek ha despedido a dos docenas de administradores superiores y ha anunciado planes para despedir a 7.000 de los 57.000 trabajadores de la SSA, destripando la plantilla hasta mínimos de 50 años. Al tiempo que cerraba muchas oficinas locales y regionales,

Protesta por el Seguro Social durante el primer mandato de Trump, Washington, DC, 13 de agosto de 2018.

el 18 de marzo Dudek eliminó la opción de solicitar o cambiar las prestaciones por teléfono, obligando a los beneficiarios mayores y discapacitados a solicitarlas en línea o en persona. Ahora se espera que el tiempo de espera para la cita sea de meses.

Cuando la juez federal Ellen L. Hollander prohibió a los empleados del DOGE acceder al edificio de la SSA el 20 de marzo, Dudek amenazó con cerrar la agencia. Dudek está sobrepasado como administrador en funciones, pero los mayores peligros para el programa son los inversores de capital privado deseosos de intervenir.

Según Bloomberg News, un grupo de inversores de capital privado -Antonio Gracias, fundador de Valor Equity Partners; Scott Coulter, ex de Lone Pine Capital; y Michael Russo, ex de Shift4- han intervenido en la agencia por orden directa de Bisignano. (10 de marzo)

Los recortes de la Seguridad Social afectan más a las mujeres

En febrero de 2025, se estimaba que 73,2 millones de personas recibían beneficios del Seguro Social, de la Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI) o de ambos. Cualquier ataque al Seguro Social afectará más a las mujeres. Según la SSA, entre las mujeres de 65 años o más, el 44% recibe más de la mitad de sus ingresos del Seguro Social, y el 15% depende del SS para el 90% de sus ingresos.

Las prestaciones del Seguro Social pertenecen a los trabajadores. Cada dólar que se destina al Seguro Social y a Medicare se deduce de los cheques de los trabajadores para ser igualado por los empresarios. El dinero va a parar al Fondo Fiduciario del Seguro Social, valorado en aproximadamente 2,79 billones de dólares a finales de 2024. Los fondos son salarios diferidos, a pagar durante la jubilación o los períodos de incapacidad; la clase trabajadora considera sus prestaciones «sacrosantas» e «inviolables».

Los trabajadores lucharon por el Seguro Social

En un artículo titulado «El Seguro Social pertenece a los trabajadores» de workers.org publicado en 2013, Kathy Durkin explicaba la historia del Seguro Social:

«La Ley del Seguro Social fue promulgada por el Congreso y firmada por el presidente Franklin Delano Roosevelt el 14 de agosto de 1935. Esta ley fue el resultado de luchas de clase militantes y masivas durante la Gran Depresión por parte de sindicatos, consejos de desempleados, y organizaciones afroamericanas, socialistas, comunistas y otros progresistas. Cientos de protestas presionaron a los empresarios y al gobierno para conseguir prestaciones de jubilación de la Seguridad Social y un seguro de desempleo.

«La ley se modificó en 1956 para pagar prestaciones por incapacidad». En diciembre de 2024, 7,2 millones de trabajadores discapacitados percibían prestaciones de invalidez del Seguro Social, y 86.000 cónyuges y 1,1 millones de hijos menores de 18 años también recibían pagos.

Durkin continuó: «Ya se han producido importantes usurpaciones. Las Enmiendas al Seguro Social de 1983, de la era Reagan, elevaron la edad de acceso a las prestaciones completas de 65 a 67 años, a partir del año 2000, y aceleraron las subidas de los impuestos sobre las nóminas, entre otras medidas. Millones de trabajadores indocumentados, que aportaron decenas de miles de millones de dólares al fondo, no tienen derecho a cobrar las prestaciones del Seguro Social.

«Los políticos de derechas y los expertos afirman falsamente que el Seguro Social contribuye al 'déficit' federal, drenando la economía. Pero el programa no sólo se ha pagado a sí mismo con las cotizaciones de los trabajadores, sino que el gobierno ha saqueado el 'excedente' del Fondo durante 40 años, utilizándolo para pagar guerras en el extranjero, pagos de intereses a los bancos y rescates de Wall Street.

«Hay suficiente dinero en el Fondo Fiduciario para mantener la solvencia del programa y pagar las prestaciones hasta 2033. El gobierno está legalmente obligado a devolver los fondos tomados de la cuenta, y ésta es la crisis: ¿Reembolsará lo que se debe legítimamente a los trabajadores?». Durkin concluyó que ésta es la cuestión clave. (workers.org/2013/04/8367)

Los capitalistas y los políticos millonarios no quieren devolver la deuda, por lo que se confabulan constantemente para averiguar cómo recortar las prestaciones, o incluso eliminar el programa por completo. ☐

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